

1 68. The system of claim 66, further comprising:
2 a dialer, coupled to the string handler, for, responsive to the keystroke se-
3 quence not producing a valid result in the first context and pro-
4 ducing a valid result in the second context, dialing a telephone
5 number specified by the second value for each keystroke.

1 69. The system of claim 66, wherein:
2 the output device comprises a display screen;
3 the character input device comprises a keyboard; and
4 each character input device element comprises a key.

1 70. The system of claim 66, further comprising:
2 a second output device, coupled to the string handler, for, responsive to
3 the keystroke sequence not producing a valid result in the first
4 context and not producing a valid result in the second context,
5 outputting an invalidity indicator.

1 71. The system of claim 70, wherein the second output device comprises
2 at least one selected from:
3 an auditory output device; and
4 a visual output device.

1 72. The system of claim 66, wherein, responsive to the keystroke sequence
2 not producing a valid result in the first context and not producing a valid result
3 in the second context, the output device outputs an invalidity indicator.

1 73. The system of claim 66, wherein the first context comprises accepting
2 input for an iterative directory filtering operation on a plurality of directory re-
3 cords.

1 74. The system of claim 73, further comprising:
2 a directory filter, coupled to the string handler, for, responsive to the key-
3 stroke sequence producing a valid result in the first context, per-
4 forming the directory filtering operation using the first value for
5 each of the stored keystrokes.

1 75. The system of claim 66, wherein at least one of the contexts comprises
2 accepting input for a direct entry operation.

1 76. The system of claim 75, wherein the first context comprises accepting
2 input for a direct entry operation.

1 77. The system of claim 76, wherein the direct entry operation comprises a
2 telephone number direct entry operation.

1 78. The system of claim 66, wherein the first context comprises accepting
2 input for a directory filtering operation, and the second context comprises ac-
3 cepting input for a direct entry operation.

1 79. The system of claim 66, wherein:
2 each first value comprises one selected from the group consisting of a let-
3 ter and a punctuation symbol; and
4 each second value comprises a number.

1 80. The system of claim 66, wherein:
2 each first value comprises one selected from the group consisting of a let-
3 ter and a punctuation symbol; and
4 each second value comprises one selected from the group consisting of a
5 number and a punctuation symbol.

1 81. The system of claim 66, wherein:
2 responsive to at least one of the keystrokes not being valid in one of the
3 contexts, the string handler determines that the other context is
4 intended.

1 82. A system for concurrently accepting parameters in at least two con-
2 texts, the system comprising: